

JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE ON THE REINDEER INDUSTRY OF ALASKA

Washington, D. C.,
February 8, 1929.

For the Information of State and Municipal Health
Officers, State Conservation Commissioners, Fish and Game
Commissions, and for the Information of the General Public.

The reindeer industry of Alaska was initiated by the Federal Government in 1891 and during the decade 1892/1902, 1,280 reindeer were imported from Siberia. The herds now number more than 500,000 animals. Congress now appropriates money each year for the development of the industry, and this money is expended under the direction of the Bureau of Education, Department of the Interior, and the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture.

Alaska now maintains large herds of reindeer, and reindeer meat and by-products are being shipped into the United States each year by the Bureau of Education and private owners.

Reindeer are not included in the Federal Meat Inspection Act, but reindeer meat may be received into the United States and be shipped interstate, and when marked for identification may be received and handled as such in federally inspected plants. It may also be used in the preparation of U. S. inspected and passed meat and meat food products when such articles are appropriately labeled.

The Government has maintained experimental stations in Alaska and keeps in touch with the main herds of reindeer. No contagious disease has ever been encountered and no reason has appeared why the sale or use of reindeer meat should require Federal, State, or municipal health inspection for the detection of disease. However, State or municipal inspection may be appropriate to determine whether the reindeer meat may have become spoiled due to improper storage or handling. The reindeer has for many centuries been a domesticated animal and not subject to game laws.

FOR THE JOINT COMMITTEE:

PAUL G. REDINGTON,
Chief, Bureau of Biological
Survey, Department of Agriculture.

J. R. MOHLER,
Chief, Bureau of Animal Industry,
Department of Agriculture.

WILLIAM HAMILTON,
Assistant Chief, Alaska Division,
Bureau of Education, Department
of the Interior.

Subcommittee